

THE DOCTRINE

of the Church, to which is
committed the Keyes of the
Kingdome of Heaven.

Wherein is Demonstrated by way
of Question and Answer, what a Visible
Church is, according to the order of the Gospell:
and what Officers, Members, Worship and Govern-
ment, Christ hath ordaind in the New
TESTAMENT.

By that Reverend and Learned Divine, Ma-
ster JOHN COTTON, B. D. and Teacher of
Church in *Boston* in New England.

JEREMY 50. 5.

*They shall take the way to Zion, with their faces thither-
ward, saying, Come, let us joyne our selves to the Lord
in a perpetuall Covenant, that shall not be forgotten.*

L O N D O N :

Printed for Samuel Satterthwaite, at the signe of the
black Bull in Budge Row. 1642.



To the Reader.

Courteous Reader, if the Reverend Author (who many years agoe did handle these things more fully, and thus set downe the summe and pith thereof) had had a late perusall of them, and had overseene the Presse: there should not have escaped (through the Coppy or Printer) these or the like faults, which now thou art entreated to Correc^t with thy Pen, before thy perusall hereof, both for thine owne and others benefit: which else in part may be hindered.

The Errata.

Page 1. line 17. *members and Saints, read members, Saints.* p. 2. l. 4. *throne* r. *Church* p. 3. l. 10. *without. r. in* l. 31 *brave. r. grave.* p. 5. l. 4. *committing* r. *submitting* l. 13, 14 *worship and administration* (1) and r. *pointing it thus, worship, and ministratio* (1); and l. (31.) *worship. r. prayer. bring the 6. line from the end.* p. 6. l. 24. or any. r. or others. p. 8. l. 9 *performed by. r. performed,* p. 10. l. 30. *is to be r. it be* p. 11. l. 12. r. it, : for if be refused it, the p. 12. l. 6. *from the end. subordinate. r. as subordinate.* p. 13. l. 6. *the Church. r. the other Church.*

And in the Margent Correc^t it thus:

P age 2. The 11. first lines,	} Should be in the	} and of page 1 beginning of p. 3. beginning of p. 6.
p. 2. The two last lines,		
p. 5. The 6 last lines there,		

p. 2. l. 5. 1 Cor. 4. 17. r. 1. l. 11. Rom. 1. 3. r. 13. l. 15. Rom. 16. 3. r. 23. l. 16.
 & 19. Phil. 2. 2. r. 1. 1. 22. 1. 17. 2 to 7. r. 1 Tim. 3. 2. to 7. p. 1. l. 1. Rom. 1. 7. 12.
 p. 19. Mat. 23. r. 3. l. 15. Mat. 6. r. 36. l. 5. from the end. Eph. 4. 33. r. 32.
 p. 5. l. 18. Psa. 122. 12. 3. r. 1, 2, 3. p. 7. l. 4. from the end. Cbr. 19. r. 29 p. 8. l. 8.
 1 King. 8. 15. r. 14. p. 8. l. 9. put out (3) being misplaced. l. 11. Numb. 6. r.
 (3) Numb. 6. l. 1st save one, 1 Cor. 16. 2. r. (1 Cor. 16. 2.) p. 8. l. 15. Jo. 4. 26. r.
 24. the 5, 6, 7. l. from the end, put out. and p. 10. l. 11. last 14 33. r. 14. 23.





THE *Doctrine*
true Constitution
of a Particular visible
Church proved by
Scripture.

Quest.

What is the Church?



Ans. The Church is a Mystical body (1) whereof Christ is the Head (2) the members *the* Saints (3) called out of the World (4) and united together into one Congregation (5) by an holy Covenant (6) to worship the Lord, and to edifie one another in all his holy Ordinances (7)

Quest. What sort of Members hath God set in his Church?

Ans. Some that are Ministers (1) or Officers (2) the Church, others commonly called by the generall name

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and 2. 2. 9.
to 15.

(7) 1 Cor. 5. 4

1 Cor. 14. 26.

(1) 1 or 4 17

Eph. 4. 12.

Col. 4. 17.

Rom. 12. 7

(2) 1 Tim. 3. 2.

10. 13.

Rom. 11. 3

Psal. 109. 8.

(3) Act. 15. 22

23.

Rom. 16. 3.

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1 Cor. 12. 28.

(2) Phil. 4. 4

1 Tim. 3.

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Tit. 1. 6. to 9.

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1 Cor. 12. 28.

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(1) Rom. 12.

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(1) 1oh 18. 36

(2) Mat. 20. 25

26.

(3) Luk. 12. 43

(3) 1 Tim. 5.

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name that belongeth, to all the members, Brethren,
(3) and Saints. (4)

Quest. What sorts of Ministers or Officers hath God
set in his Church?

Ans. Some extraordinary, as Apostles, Prophets,
and Evangelists (1) some ordinary and perpetuall, as
Bishops and Deacons. (2)

Quest. What manner of men are to be called to these
Offices, to be Bishops, or Elders in the Church?

Ans. A Bishop or Elder in the Church, must be in
himselfe a blamelesse man for Holinesse, and Righte-
ousnesse, and for freedome from passions and lusts, al-
so a vigilant man, and of good behaviour. Moreover,
he must bee in his Family a man of good Government,
and of good Hospitality; in his Name a man of good
Report even of those that are without; in his Profes-
sion not a young Plant, but holding fast the faithfull
Word, apt to teach it, and able to maintaine it (1)

Quest. What sorts of Bishops or Elders hath God
ordained in his Church?

Ans. Of Bishops who are also called Elders, God
hath ordained two sorts; Ruling Elders, and such as
labour in word and in Doctrine (1) commonly called
Pastors and Teachers (2) all of them to watch over
one certaine Flocke, the Church of a particular Con-
gregation. (3)

Quest. What is the Office, or worke of the Pastors
or Teachers?

Ans. The Pastors worke is to attend upon Exhor-
tation, and therein to dispence a word of wisdom; the
Teacher is to attend upon Doctrine, and therein to
dispence a word of knowledges (1)

Quest. What is the Office of the Ruling Elders?

Ans. Seeing the Kingdome of Christ is not of this
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vernment of his Kingdome is not Lordly, but Steward-
ly, and Ministeriall (2) and to labour in the ministry

of

of Exhortation, and Doctrine is the proper work of the Pastor and Teacher (3) it remaineth therefore to bee the part, and Office of the ruling Elders, to assist the Pastor and Teacher in all other Acts of Rule besides, as becometh good Stewards of the Household of God (4) as first to open, and shut the doores of Gods House (5) by admission of Members (6) by ordination of Officers (7) by excommunication of notorious and obstinate offenders (8)

Secondly, to see that none ~~within~~ the Church live either inordinately without a calling, or Idly in their calling (9) thirdly to prevent and heale such offences in life, and Doctrine as might corrupt either their owne Church (10) or other Churches if their Counsel be required (11) Fourthly, to prepare matters before hand for the Churches consideration (12) and to moderate the carriage of all matters in the Church assembled (13) as to propound matters to the Church (14) and to order the season of speech and silence in the Church (15) Fifthly, to feed the flock of God with a word of admonition (16) and as they shall be called for to visite & pray over their sick brethren (17)

Quest. What manner of men hath God appointed to be called to the Deacons Office?

Ans. Men of gravity and of good report not given to dissembling, nor to Wine, nor to covetousnesse, full of the holy Ghost and wisdom, holding forth the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience, keeping their household in good Rule and enjoying such wives as may neither dishonour nor corrupt their Office, nor slanderers (but) grave and sober and faithfull in all things (1)

Quest. What is the office of the Deacons?

Ans. To receive the offerings of the Church brought unto them and laid downe before them (1) and therewith to serve Tables (2) distributing with simplicity (3) not onely to the Ministers of the Church (4) but to any other of the brethren as they shall have need (5)

Question

(4) Rom. 1
8.
Num 8. 19.
(5) Math. 16.
19
(6) Acts 10.
28 29.
(7) 1 Tim. 4.
14.
(8) Math 18.
17, 18.
(9) 1 Ihes. 3.
10, 11, 12.
(10) Rev. 22
14, 15, 20.
(11) 1 Cor. 15. 2.
6.
(12) Acts 21
18.
(13) Act. 6. 2.
(14) Act. 6. 3
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(15) Acts 15
15.
(16) 1 Thes.
5. 12.
Acts 20. 31.
(17) 1am. 5.
14.

1 Tim. 3. 8; to
12.
Act 6. 3.

(1) Acts 4. 34

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(2) Acts 6. 1.

(3) Rom. 12.

8.

(4) Gal. 6. 6

(5) Act. 4. 35

and 2. 9.
to 15.

(7) 1 Cor. 5. 4

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 14, 15, 20.
 (11) 1 Cor. 15. 1.
 6.
 (12) Acts 21.
 18.
 (13) Acts 6. 2.
 (14) Acts 6. 2.
 3.
 (15) Acts 13.
 15.
 (16) 1 Thes.
 5. 12.
 Acts 20. 31.
 (17) 1 Tim. 5.
 14.
 1 Tim. 3. 8: to
 12.
 Acts 6. 3.
 (1) Acts 4. 34
 35.
 (2) Acts 6. 2.
 (3) Rom. 12.
 8.
 (4) Gal. 6. 6
 (5) Acts 4. 35

Quest. But is it not the Office of the Deacons to shew mercy with cheerfulness?

Ans. Yes verily, to their Brethren in misery (1) but that part of their office they do chiefly performe by the hand of the widdowes, chosen into their number, who are therefore called the Deacons or servants of the Church (2)

(1) Rom. 12. 8

(2) Rom. 16. 1

(3) 1 Tim. 5. 9

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(1) Rom. 12. 8

1 Cor. 12. 9

Act. 2. 38, 39.

40.

Math. 23. 11, 12

(2) Act. 2. 41.

Ps. 110. 3.

Eliz. 4. 6, 7

(3) Act. 2. 47

& 8. 36, 37, 38.

(4) Math. 23. 6.

Acts 10. 18.

(5) Act. 8. 36.

37. 38.

(6) Eps. 5. 6, 7

(7) 1 Pet. 2. 17

& 3. 8.

Gal. 3. 24.

1 Thes. 4. 9.

Heb. 13. 1.

(1) 1 Cor. 13. 1.

Col. 3. 15.

Act. 7. 26.

(3) 1 Cor. 8. 14.

Math. 23. 8.

Deut. 17. 20.

(4) Act. 2. 42.

& 4. 32.

(1) 1 Cor. 1. 10.

(1) Phil. 2. 1, 2.

Ephes. 4. 25.

(2) Phil. 4. 2.

Act. 4. 32.

(3) Gal. 5. 26.

(4) Ep. 4. 2. 33

(5) Ro. 14. 13.

(6) Phil. 2. 16.

(7) Act. 8. 26.

(8) Ephes. 4. 3.

Quest. What manner of widdowes hath God allowed, to be taken into this number?

Ans. Ancient women, well reported of for good workes, for nursing her children, for lodging of Strangers, for washing the Saints feet, for relieving the afflicted, for following diligently every good work (3)

Quest. What manner of men hath God appointed, to be received as Brethren and members of his Church?

Ans. Such as are called of God out of the world to the fellowship of Christ (1) and do willingly offer and joyne themselves, first to the Lord (2) and then to the Church (3) by confession of their sins (4) by profession of their faith (5) and by taking or laying hold of his Covenant (6)

Quest. What is the Office or duty which God calleth the Brethren unto the members of the Church?

Ans. To brotherly love (1) and the fruits thereof brotherly unity (2) brotherly equality (3) & brotherly communion (4)

Quest. Wherein standeth brotherly unity which we are to hold one with another?

Ans. To be perfectly joynd together in one mind and one judgement in one truth (1) and where we cannot bee of one judgement yet still to be of one heart (2) not provoking nor envying one another (3) but forbearing and forgiving (4) not judging nor despising one another in differences of weaknesse (5) but so far as we are come to walke together by the same Rule (6) To teach and learne one of another the way of God (7) Till we all grow up in the unity of (the

the faith, unto a perfect man in Christ Iesus (8)

Quest. Wherein standeth brotherly equality which we are to hold one with another?

Ans. In submitting a like unto all Gods Ordinances, and enjoying alike all Christian Liberties (1) In preferring others before our selves (2) and seeking one anothers wellfare (3) and feeling their estates, as our owne (4) in bearing the burdens one of another imposing no burdens, but in equall proportion (6)

Quest. Wherein standeth brotherly communion, which we are to hold one with another?

Ans. In our stedfast and continuall fellowship in the Apostles Doctrine and worship : and ministration (1) and for this end to dwell together (2) and to watch over one another (3) to resort together to the publike assembly (4) and there to joyne in all holy duties with one accord (5) and every Lords day to lay up in store for the supply of the Saints (6)

Quest. How is the publike worship of God to bee ordered, and administred in the Church?

Ans. All the Members of the Church being met together as one man (1) in the sight of God (2) are to joyne together in holy duties with one accord (3) the men with their heads uncovered the women covered (4)

Quest. What part of publike worship is first to bee administred?

Ans. The Apostle exhorteth that first of all : All manner of prayers be made for all men, for Kings, and all in authority, that we may leade a quiet and a peaceable life, in all godlinesse and honesty (1)

Quest. Whither are set forms of publike worship devised and ordained by men an acceptable worship unto the Lord?

Ans. If such set formes had beene an ordinance of the Lord, and a worship acceptable to him, the Lord himselfe, or at least some of the Apostles, or Prophets, would

(1) Gal. 3. 28.

1. Tim. 1. 9. 10.

Deut. 17. 10.

Ezek. 46. 10.

(2) Phil. 2. 3.

Rom. 12. 10.

(3) 1 Cor. 10. 24

Phil. 2. 4.

Gal. 5. 13.

(4) Heb. 1. 3.

Rom. 12. 15.

(5) Gal. 5. 2.

(6) 2 Cor. 8.

13. 14.

(1) Act. 2. 42.

& 6. 1.

(2) Psal. 133. 1

& 122. 12. 3.

(3) Heb. 10. 24

3. 11. 33.

(4) Heb. 10. 25.

Psal. 130. 3.

& 23. 1.

Isay 66. 8.

(5) Act. 1. 14.

& 4. 24.

1 Cor. 14. 16. 26.

1 Cor. 16. 1. 2.

2 Cor. 9. 13.

(1) Ezek. 46. 10

1 Cor. 11. 3. 3.

(2) Act. 10. 33

(3) Deut. 4. 24.

1 Cor. 14. 16.

1 Cor. 11. 4. to 6.

(1) 1 Tim. 2. 1. 2

Ezek. 6. 10.

(1) Act. 20. 26

27.

(2) Gen. 20. 7.

Neh. 8. 6.

1 Cor. 14. 16.

(3) Isay. 29. 13

(4) Rom. 8. 16 would not have held back that part of Gods Counsell, from the Church (1) Besides, publique prayer is as well a part of publique Ministry, as Prophecie is (2) (6) 1. 121. 1. and the formes of one might as justly be taught, by the precepts of men as the other (3) and both of them are alike the gifts of the Holy Ghost, to whom it belongeth as well to teach us what to pray, as how to pray (4) nor will it well stand with the holy gesture of Prayer, which is to lift up our eyes to Heaven (5) to cast downe our eyes upon a Booke (6)

Quest. What part of publique worship is next to be administred?

(1) 1 Kin. 3. 15. *Ans.* Before Prophecie it ^{may} bee seasonable to sing a Psalm (1) and by some of the Teachers of the Church to Reade the Word, and therewith to Preach it, by giving the sence, and applying the use (2) In dispensing whereof the Minister was wont to stand above all the people in a Pulpit of wood (3) Neh. 8. 4. and the Elders on both sides (3) while the people harkned unto them with Reverence and Attention (4) where there be more Prophets, ⁶²⁵ Pastors, and Teachers, they may Prophecie two or three (5) and if the time permit the Elders ^{may} call ^{any} one of the Brethren, whether of the same Church or ^{else} to speake a word of Exhortation to the people (6) and for the better edifying of a mans selfe or others, it may be lawfull for any (young or old) save onely for (7) Luk. 2. 46. Women to aske questions at the mouth of the Prophets (7)

(1) Act. 16. 4. *Quest.* After the Ministry of the Word, what part of Gods publique worship is next to be administred?

(2) Mar. 28. 19. *Ans.* After the Word (which is the Covenant of God) the Seales of the Covenant are next to bee administred; Baptisme, and the Lords Supper (1) and as for Baptisme: it is to bee dispenced by a Minister of the Word (2) unto a Beleever professing his Repentance, and his Faith (3) being a member of the same Church

Body

See 1. 2. 11. 11. 12. 13